



# Nuckolls County Board Minutes



## JANUARY 23, 2012 PROCEEDINGS OF THE NUCKOLLS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Nuckolls County Board of Commissioners met Monday, January 23, 2012 in the Board Meeting Room at the Courthouse, Nelson, Nebraska, per recess of January 17, 2012. Combs, Corman and Brown present for the meeting. The agenda of said meeting was remitted to board members in advance of the meeting and is posted in the County Clerk's office and on the County Website. Combs announced the 'Open Meetings Act Law' as posted in the Commissioners Board Meeting Room and handouts are available.

The board reconvened at 9:00 a.m. Chairman Combs approved the agenda and the January 17, 2012 minutes as submitted. Also present for the meeting is Chuck Mittan of the Superior Express.

The following correspondence was remitted to the Board for review: The 2011 Annual Report for Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska.

Clerk Kassebaum remitted the 6 month Expenditure Report for July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. Treasurer Ensign discussed with the Board about getting the design made for the County Flag. Clerk Kassebaum will follow up on this.

Jalonda Bouray with the Midland Area Agency on Aging met with the Board to discuss the issue with a client in Nelson who complained to the Board last week. Bouray discussed their policies for scheduling a pickup to be transported to Hastings. Bouray submitted a copy of the Superior Public Transportation Passenger Handbook to the Board for their review. Bouray explained if they do not have 3 passengers scheduled they can not go to Hastings on that day and will cancel the trip. They come to Nelson on Monday's, Thursday's and the First and Third Friday's of each month and will go to Hastings twice a month.

Gary Warren, Highway Superintendent and Cindy Buescher, Executive Secretary met with the Board to give an update on the current activities of the County Road Department. Warren noted they have started a project Southwest of Bostwick, removing a ½ mile of cottonwood trees. They are continuing maintenance on equipment in the Nelson shop. Warren noted he has been working on some BNSF R.R. on crossings for Commissioner Combs. They had a request to make a new driveway entry for a person building a new house. Warren noted Jewell County will be working on getting road ditches cleaned out for a project along the county line. The Board discussed with Warren some miscellaneous issues. Buescher noted that 2 of the Road Employees are still working on the Sign Inventory.

**A motion was made by Corman and seconded by Brown to authorize Chairman Combs to sign the Traffic Sign Retroreflectivity Maintenance Program for Calendar Year 2012. Combs, Corman and Brown all voted Aye, 0 voted Nay. Motion carried.** The plan approves both night time inspections and by daytime inspections to comply with mandatory requirements.

Warren discussed with the Board the removal of several projects from the 1&6 that would have received soft-match funds. The projected projects to be removed were Project #STPE 1990(5), Superior West, (will stay on the County's 1 year plan but removed from State); Project STPE 2363(2), 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Superior (City's portion); Project STPE 2363(3), 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Superior (County's portion); Project 2395 (6), Nora South; Project BRO-7065(25), Ruskin South. The Project BRO 7065(26) Ruskin Southeast will stay on the State 1&6 and Project RUR 3365(3) Superior South will stay on the County but will be removed from the State. Project BRO 7060(24), Oak Northwest will be removed from the State 1&6 Plan and Project C00065-657, Etter Bridge will be removed off the 1&6 Plan. The Nebraska Department of Roads has requested to have these projects removed from the 1&6 Plan as the Soft-Match funds have been frozen until further notice to all Counties. These



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projects have been on the 1&6 Plan and have had some activity that would receive funds from the State. If the Counties remove them from the 1&6 Plan now the County's will not have to reimburse the State for funds already spent. If the County does not remove them the County is required to reimburse the State. This issue will be up for a decision during the 1&6 Year Hearing in February.

John Keelan, CEO of Brodstone Memorial Hospital; Sandy Borden and Dena Alvarez both from Brodstone Memorial Hospital along with Dean Cole, Program Administrator and Julie Smithson, Region Coordinator, both with Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, Emergency Medical Services, all met with the Board to discuss the request from Brodstone Memorial Hospital to have the County operate a County Ambulance Service. Also in attendance is Timothy Schmidt, County Attorney and Bob Burkett, Nelson Fire Chief. Dean Cole discussed with the Board about having a Emergency Medical Service Assessment conducted in the County. Cole noted this assessment will provide the County with a means to education, training, financial and support. The strategic plan will increase efficiency by 20%. Cole discussed the assessment team that he would have for Nuckolls County. Gary Windgrove of Minnesota; Nick Nadoll who's expertise is statistics; Jim Murray from Wyoming and Dick Wenske who formally worked for Rural Metro. The Assessment team will look at ambulance calls, billings and retention among other issues. They would interview all key people with the local EMS Squads of Nelson, Lawrence and Superior. After a 3 day process the assessment team will make their recommendations and submit this to the Department. The Department will return the results to the entity who requested the Assessment within 6 weeks. Cole noted the Department will only do an assessment if invited to do so. Cole noted a committee will need to be appointed and a coordinator to handle the initial requested information and a place to hold private interviews. Cole noted there is no cost to the County for the assessment and no obligation to comply with the recommendations of the Department. This is just a tool if we decide to administer a county ambulance service. It was noted that the Department has conducted 14 County Assessments through the State. 5 of those Counties have successfully implemented their plan. Commissioner Brown asked who requested the assessment, it was noted that Brodstone Memorial Hospital had requested the assessment. Keelan would request to have the County go forward with the assessment. County Attorney, Tim Schmidt asked if there was any obligation to the Lawrence, Nelson & Superior Squads if they were interested in having an assessment done. It was noted the 2 communities in District 3 were working fine and the assessment may cause issues or be a problem to those communities. Cole noted that may be a possibility. Cole noted the assessment would be conducted the last part of April or mid summer. It was noted the problems seem to be in Superior. They are having trouble getting EMT's for volunteers, they want to be paid. Corman noted the County is not interested if the City of Superior is not interested. It was noted the City was not interested to taking over the ambulance service. Chairman Combs wanted the figures from the hospital on what it would cost to run an ambulance service and as of yet the County has not received those figures. The hospital is a transportation ambulance only and if it is not feasible to them to run this service than the County would need to know what the costs are. It was asked how the County was to pay for the ambulance service. The ambulance service should be run out of the hospital. Cole noted the assessment would address this issue and give some answers. It would take the cooperation from the community and all work together. Schmidt asked if there would be any financial assistance available to help with the expenses or resources available in the assessment. Cole noted there were no financial assistance available, however the assessment would address the billing and how to make it feasible. They have experts available who can help with the billing system. It was noted that the Department may only need to look at Superior for the assessment. Brown noted he was reluctant to participate due to budget cuts. Due to Federal and State budgets cuts, the County is looking at cutting budgets also. Cole noted the Board needs to be addressing the County's health care issues and the County will have to deal with this someday. Cole noted they would be meeting with Nelson, Lawrence and the City of Superior today (Monday, January 23, 2012). **A motion was made by Corman and seconded by Brown to table the request until results of the assessment have been compiled and brought back to the County. Combs, Corman and Brown all voted Aye, 0 voted Nay. Motion carried.** It was noted that if all entities involved were willing then they may consider it. It would be a waste of time to do an assessment if all entities involved would not be interested.



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**A motion was made by Brown and seconded by Corman to deny the request from Lawrence Rural Fire District to have a levy under the County's levy. Combs, Corman and Brown all voted Aye, 0 voted Nay. Motion carried.**

**A motion was made by Brown and seconded by Combs to deny the request from Nelson Rural Fire District to have a levy under the County's levy. Combs, Corman and Brown all voted Aye, 0 voted Nay. Motion carried.**

Michele Bever, Executive Director of South Heartland District Health Department met with the Board to give the Annual Report for 2010/2011. The District includes the County's of Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster. Bever noted that the "public spirited" person from Nuckolls County on the District Board that is up for re-appointment, by the County Board, the end of March. The County Board will need to appoint someone before April 1, 2012. Currently Perry Freeman holds that position. Bever would like to have Freeman re-appointed again to that position for a 3 year term. Bever noted they will be doing an assessment by September 2012 for the District Health Department. They will be having a Focus Group on February 21, 2012 and would like to have at least one Board member attend. Bever announced that on March 27, 2012 they will be having a special Public Health Forum with speakers during the day and a Banquet in the evening to celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the original Board Members who were on the SHDHD Board will be honored as special guests. It was noted that Arnold Brown was one of the original board members. Bever reviewed some key activities in the District last fiscal year. Bever noted the satellite office in Nelson will be moving to Superior in March. It will be located in the same office as the Community Action. They will be there on the first Tuesday of each month. They are looking at having an open house in May. No date is set at this time. Bever discussed some key projects they are working on for this year, the 'Clean Indoor Air Act' and the 'Tobacco Free Housing' projects. They will also continue to sell Radon Gas Kits out of the County Extension office. Bever asked the Board if they had any Legislative issues related to health issues that she could address. Discussion was held regarding the bill to repeal the inheritance tax. Bever noted there is one about child welfare issues that she will be addressing.

There being no further business the meeting was recessed at 11:33 a.m. until Monday, January 30, 2012.

Michael D. Combs, Chairman

By: Jackie L. Kassebaum, County Clerk